**Newspaper report on mining sector**

1819. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the 'Times of India' dated 16th February, 1995 under the caption "Policy snags holding up FDI in mining sector";

(b) if so, what are the details thereof:

(c) whether Government propose to review its new policy in August, 1993;

(d) the manner in which propose to remove such "snags" or 'communication gap" between Central and State Governments and reluctance by Geological Survey of India in sharing information for foreign investment in the mining sector; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Government does not propose to review the National Mineral Policy, 1993 at present. Grant of prospecting licences/mines leases is being carried out under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder. Any difficulty which may be faced by State Governments or foreign investors in investment in the mining sector would be removed by a process of consultation. The Geological Survey of India has indicated that there is no reluctance in making data available to investors and its publications are freely available on sale.

**Exploration of minerals in Gujarat**

1820. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up any plant in the state of Gujarat for survey and exploration of minerals:

(b) if so, the number and details with locations where such plants are functioning in the State:

(c) whether Government propose to expand these plants or set up new units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) No plants have been set up in Gujarat for survey and exploration.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Geological Survey of India (GSI) which has its office in Gandhinagar (Gujarat) conducts survey and exploration for minerals according to approved programmes. So, there is no need to set up any new units.

**Gold field identified in Karnataka**

1821. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Geological Survey has identified gold fields in the State of Karnataka;

(b) whether Government have assessed the quantum of gold available in the field area;

(c) what will be the per ton excavation cost; and

(d) whether Government propose to allot excavation to a private party?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has estimated a total reserve of 15 408 million tonnes of gold ore with average grade varying from 1.22 gms./tonne to 3.83 g/t of gold in different gold fields of Karnataka.